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## **Senate passes Sen. Hardiman's lead-inspection bill**

**Lansing** — The Senate unanimously approved legislation today to help protect children from lead poisoning, ensuring they won't endure the mental and developmental disabilities that lead poisoning causes, Sen. Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) announced.

"While lead paint was banned in 1978, some housing units, particularly in older, poorer neighborhoods, still have lead-based paint in them," Hardiman told his colleagues while advocating the package on the Senate floor. The Senate Families and Human Services Committee, which Hardiman chairs, recommended the bills.

"With this legislation, we're helping to ensure Michigan children won't grow up with the disabilities caused by lead poisoning," Hardiman said. "This gives renters with young children peace of mind that their kids are safe in their own homes and is another step in building healthy families."

Hardiman's bill, Senate Bill 756, requires the state Department of Community Health to create a public list of rental or leased housing units that have been deemed free of lead-based paint. A certified lead-paint risk assessor would make that determination. The package also requires laboratories that perform tests on lead levels in blood report the findings to the Community Health Department. It also prohibits landlords from knowingly renting or leasing with lead paint hazards.

In addition, the legislation will create a lead poisoning prevention and control commission. The commission will draw upon the knowledge and expertise of a broad group of experts on lead issues and will make further recommendations to the Legislature and administration.

This was a bipartisan effort between the Governor and the Legislature. SB 756 as well as Senate Bills 753, 755 and 757, now head to the House of Representatives for consideration. The fifth bill of the package is still being worked on in committee and is expected to be voted out soon.

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